

## TOUR OF THE CONSERVATOR.

206. Mr. MacGregor's first move was to Nágargáli on the 11th November 1896, from where he marched to Bijápur, reaching it on the 19th. Here the Collector, the Commissioner and the Divisional Forest Officer were met. The departmental collection of Cassia bark and the preparation of boundary-stones were sanctioned for providing work for the people affected by the prevailing scarcity.

207. Leaving Bijápur on the 7th December, Mr. MacGregor encamped at Bágalkot and Bádámi. From Bádámi he proceeded direct to Nágargáli and from there to Haliyál on 19th, where he inspected the Divisional Office and the large timber depôt.

208. Turning north, for the Christmas holidays, to Belgaum, he left it on the 15th of January 1897 for Dhárwár, where the Divisional Office was examined. Thence he moved with the Divisional Officer to Bandur on the 21st, where Mr. H. Mitra, Extra Assistant Conservator in charge Working-Plans Party I was met.

209. From Bandur, marching down through Kalghatgi and Tadas, he went into Kánara. Reaching Yellápur on the 11th February, he examined there the Divisional Forest Office, Southern Division, Kánara.

210. He then proceeded *viá* Lálguli, Bomanhulli and Kulgi to Potoli in the Northern Division, Kanára. Here, on the 28th of February, he met his death under circumstances which have been already reported to Government.

211. Mr. Murray, Divisional Forest Officer, Belgaum, who on hearing of the sad accident had come to Mr. MacGregor's camp to be of assistance to him, took charge of the current duties of the office and held it until Mr. T. B. Fry, Deputy Conservator, assumed charge on the 6th March at Belgaum.

212. On the 26th Mr. Fry left Belgaum and marching *viá* Haliyál and Supa arrived at Kárwár on the 13th April. Here the Divisional Office, Western Division, Kánara, was examined.

213. From Kárwár, camping at Hattikeri, Agsur, Sunksál and Arbail he reached Yellápur on the 26th. On May 1st he arrived at Dhárwár and returned on the 11th to Belgaum for the monsoon. I received charge of the office from Mr. Fry on the 11th June 1897, after office hours.

## GENERAL REMARKS.

214. The year has been on the whole the most unhappy one on record. Firstly the plague set in. This caused strict quarantine regulations everywhere and greatly hampered trade. Secondly there was the famine, the immediate result of which was high prices for food-grains resulting in a tightness of money that prevented the people from taking any interest in the timber-and bamboo-trade. It affected the sales at one and all the depôts of Kánara. To add to the above, cholera and fever were prevalent very severely hand in hand during a portion of the year in Kánara. The former visited even certain parts of the Collectorate where it had been unknown before. Want of water in the jungles through scanty rain-fall, and the two deadly diseases mentioned above prevented the Kánara contractors generally from carrying out their works properly, some failing entirely and some only partially.

215. As if the three above agencies were not enough to contend with, gangs of dacoits haunted the forests above ghát in Kánara.

216. One of these gangs attacked and robbed the cartmen and the Forest Guards who were taking from Hubli to Ittanbail, near Yellápur, the saw-mill-machinery, referred to in para. 195 above. Another broke into and robbed the forest-watch-houses at Komersikop and Sanwalli on the frontier of the Southern Division, Kanara, and a third looted the kit of the Assistant Conservator (Mr. D. A. Thomson) near Birchi in the Northern Division, Kánara.

217. Thus Kánara, besides sharing in the consequences of the plague and the famine with its sister Collectirates, Belgaum, Dhárwár and Bijápur, had to